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O 141401Z MAY 07  
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8298  
INFO RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA PRIORITY  
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC  
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0819  
RUEHRN/USMISSION UN ROME

UNCLAS DAKAR 001042

SIPDIS

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

STATE FOR INR/I, S/GAC, OES/IHA, AF/EPS AND AF/W  
STATE PLS PASS HHS AND NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [PINR](#) [SG](#)

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL'S VIEWS ON SAMPLE SHARING AND VACCINE  
ACCESS (C-TN7-00406)

REF: STATE 062185 (NOTAL)

1. (U) The following responses are keyed to the information  
requested in reftel:

A. The Government of Senegal (GOS) shares the samples collected  
with World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for  
Animal Health (OIE) world reference labs and with some laboratories  
such as Pasteur Institute and the research group of the Department  
of Infectious Diseases at St. Jude Children's Hospital, Memphis, TN.  
The GOS has a bank of virus samples stored that is accessible to  
the scientific community. The GOS believes that sharing samples is  
win-win situation, and countries that share virus samples should be  
able to access vaccines at preferential pricing.

B. The GOS believes that developing countries are entitled to a  
tiered pricing mechanism to enable public access to vaccines.

C. Regional influenza vaccine production facility is not seen as a  
priority, as it needs highly qualified personnel and biosafe  
infrastructure that is lacking in West Africa. The GOS does not  
perceive a direct relationship between growing the pandemic  
influenza vaccine supply and increasing the supply and demand of  
seasonal influenza vaccine. The level of use of seasonal influenza  
vaccine is insignificant in Senegal and is not considered as a  
threat. The GOS has purchased 2,500 doses of seasonal influenza  
vaccine and 2,500 doses of Tamiflu to protect technicians involved  
in the surveillance of avian influenza.

D. GOS officials follow and understand the influenza vaccine  
production process, and they explicitly recognize the difference  
between vaccine development and vaccine production. The Government  
acknowledges that vaccine development is necessary to test the  
efficacy of the vaccines, and thus that a small amount needs to be  
produced as a matter separate from large-scale vaccine production.

E. There is no pharmaceutical industry owned or partly owned by the  
government for human medications. However, the GOS currently owns a  
veterinary vaccine production unit which it plans to privatize in  
the near future.

F. As a member of the WHO, the GOS participates in annual meetings  
organized by the WHO's Regional Office for Africa for Ministers of  
Health. During these meetings, common positions can be taken and  
raised during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva.

G. As a WHO member, the GOS believes that all member countries  
should follow WHO directives and resolutions and should continue  
sharing virus samples as part of the global effort to fight pandemic  
influenza -- and let WHO negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for

the access to the vaccines at affordable pricing.

COMMENT

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¶2. (SBU) Our contacts in the GOS understand Indonesia's point of view, but believe that Indonesia should renegotiate directly with pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, rather than withholding virus samples from the WHO.

¶3. (SBU) Senegal's delegation to the WHO meeting will be composed of Minister of Health and Medical Prevention Abdou Fall, the Director of Health and the Director of Medical Prevention. Although Senegal does not often take an active role in WHA proceedings, the Minister of Health is a good speaker when well briefed, and he may take the floor. If he raises this issue, our contacts expect he would support the WHO position. END COMMENT.

JACOBS